

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay. The examiner has indicated that the case contains allowable subject matter.

The priority papers were filed with the original application papers and their receipt was acknowledged in the above-mentioned Examiner's Action. The undersigned hereby reiterates the priority claim made in the earlier-filed Declaration.

Enclosed herewith is a print of the drawing in which axis A has been given its reference numeral in FIG. 1. If the drawing changes are approved and the case is allowed, formal drawings corresponding to the informal ones in the case will be filed.

Claims 2 and 4, both of which depended directly from independent claim 1, have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the subject matter of independent claim 1 has been inserted into claims 2 and 4 making them and claims 3 and 5 through 12 dependent on them allowable. There are still less than 20 claims overall and only three independent claims, so there is no extra-claim fee.

Claim 1 has been amended to say that the ring has a front face bearing forward on the groove front face and a rear face bearing rearward on the ring front face, and that this ring is axially elastically deformable. This is an extremely efficient system for cushioning this tightening ring 9.

The sole reference, commonly owned US patent 6,070,884 of Mack, has as shown in FIG. 3 a washer 11 that bears axially rearward against a front face of the ring 9 and that is axially forwardly engageable with shoulders 24 of the jaws 5. This washer 11 does not and cannot engage axially forward against the front face of a groove holding the ring 9 because there is no such formation. Thus the washer 11 offers a sort of cushioning effect, but not one effective between a groove of the chuck body 2 and the ring 9. Mack shows a different structure so that a §102 rejection on Mack is impossible.

Since there is no suggestion in Mack to mount the ring 9 in a groove and brace the washer 11 forward against it, a §103 rejection is similarly out of the question.

For these reasons all the claims in the case are clearly in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosure:                      Corrected drawing.

# REPLACEMENT SHEET

21988(2-1)  
SN 09/924,324  
AU 3722

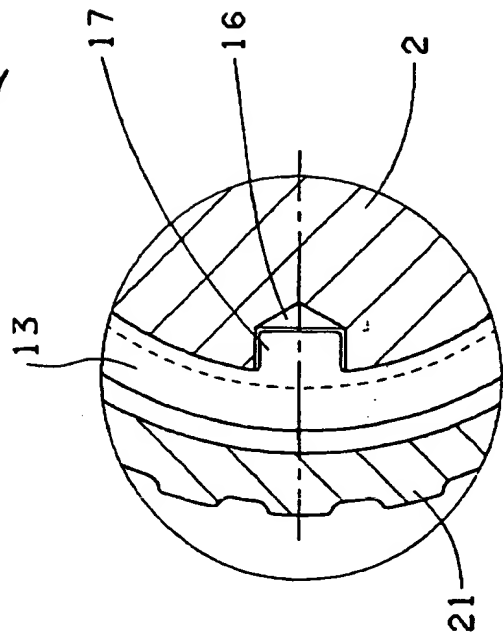


Fig. 4

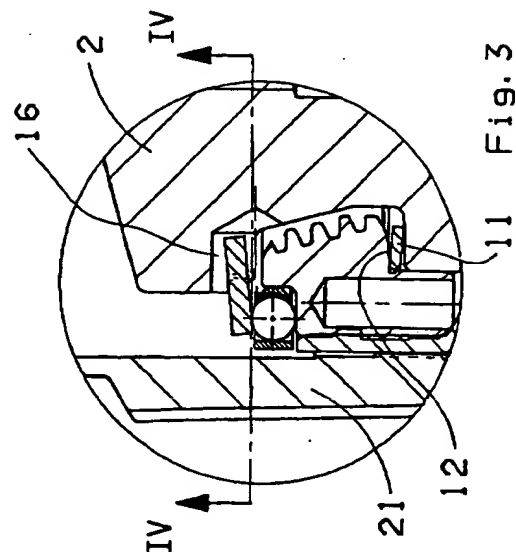


Fig. 3

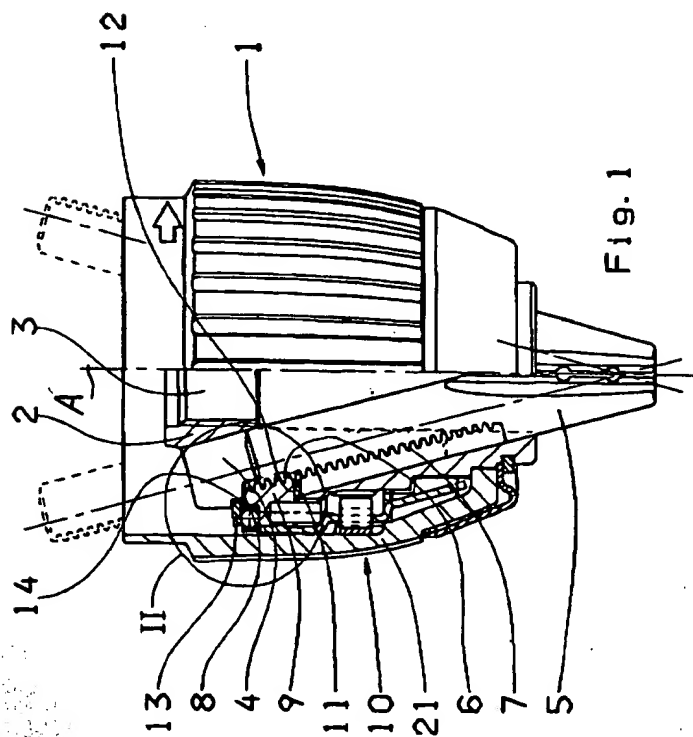


Fig. 1

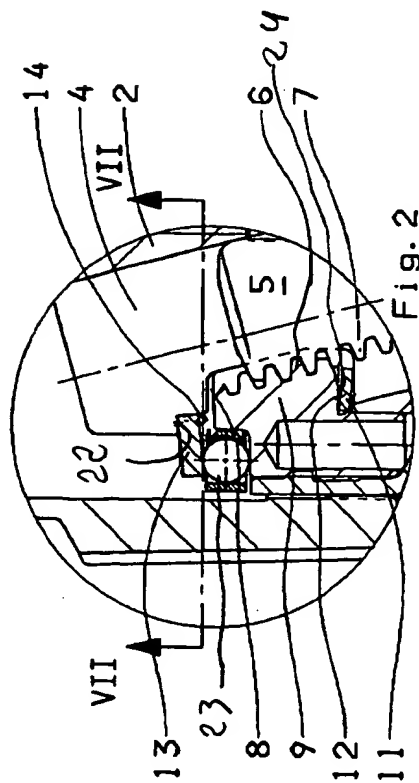


Fig. 2

